TOLD IN NEW CHILLING PICTO-FICTION

WEIRD

JULY 1968

35¢

TALES OF SHOCK★TERROR★SUSPENSE

FEATURING

WEREWOLF CASTLE

THE GHOUL AND THE GUEST

CORPSES COAST-TO-COAST

PLUS OTHER SHOCKING TALES

I HATE SPIDERS!
AY,-IT'S TRUE, I, THE KEEPER OF THE CRYPT HATE THESE CREEPY CRAWLY MISERABLE THINGS CALLED SPIDERS,-THEY DIRTY MY NICE CLEAN CRYPT WITH COBWEBS!
SPEAKING OF SPIDERS,- IT IS BELIEVED WHEN ONE CROSSES THE PATH OF NEWLY-WEDS HARD LUCK WILL FOLLOW... NONSENSE! JUST BEING MARRIED IS ENOUGH!
THERE ARE SOME WHO BELIEVE THAT SPIDERS PLACED IN A MUSLIN SACK WILL CURE WHOOPING COUGH!...DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT! CALL YOUR DOCTOR FIRST!
A SPIDER THAT DROPS ON YOUR FACE WILL BRING GOOD LUCK, —THIS MAN BELIEVED,-BUT, HE DIED KNOWN ONLY AS "HARD-LUCK" JOHN.

WEIRD

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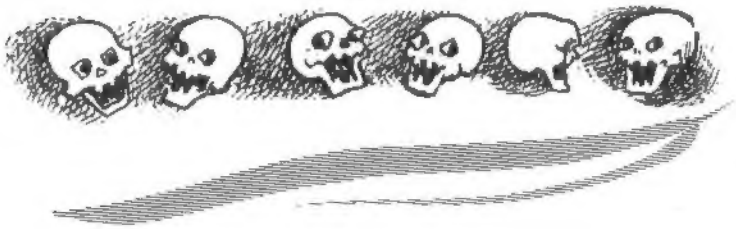

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INDIVIDUAL COPY PRICE 35c. APPLICATION TO MAIL AT SECOND CLASS RATES IS PENDING AT NEW YORK, N. Y. PRINTED IN U.S.A.

HERE WAS A PLAN FOR REVENGE THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVENTED BY THE DEVIL HIMSELF! EVIL, DIABOLICAL, UTTERLY WITHOUT MERCY, JAMES GORSE SCHEMED TO KILL THOSE WHO, IN HIS FANTASTICALLY WARPED MIND, HE THOUGHT HAD HARMED HIM! CUNNINGLY HE PREPARED HIS DEADLY TRAP---

The MURDER POOL

AS GORSE POURS THE POWDERED ACID INTO THE POOL THE WATER TURNS TO A WEIRD AND SINISTER SCARLET-- THE COLOR OF BLOOD...
HAH-HAH! VERY APPROPRIATE COLOR! JUST LIKE BLOOD! THEIR BLOOD--THE BLOOD OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SCORNED AND INSULTED ME ALL THESE YEARS!

AND NOW THAT IT'S (CHUCKLE) PROPERLY MIXED I'LL HAVE TO MAKE A LITTLE TEST! JUST TO BE SURE THAT IT WORKS! HMM--WHERE DID I PUT THAT CREEL AND THE TROUT I CAUGHT A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO?

HERE WE ARE! NOW I'LL SOON KNOW IF THE RESULTS ARE WHAT I'VE HOPED FOR! AND I MUST HAVE PERFECTION, NOTHING LESS!

I'LL JUST DIP THE FISH INTO THE POOL, BEING VERY CAREFUL! HAH-- VERY CAREFUL INDEED! I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT TO FALL INTO IT! I'LL ADMIT I'VE GOT A LOT OF FLESH ON ME, BUT IF I FELL IN I'D BE A LOT (HAH--HAH) THINNER!

THERE! AND IT SHOULD TAKE JUST ONE IMMERSION! THIS STUFF IS SUPPOSED TO ACT IN ABOUT THREE SECONDS FLAT! NOW-- IT'S BEEN IN LONG ENOUGH!

AFTER A SECOND OR TWO GORSE PULLS UP THE FISH! BUT NOW IT IS A--SKELETON...
HO-HO! WORKS PERFECTLY! NOT A SHRED OF FLESH LEFT ON IT! THE ACID DESTROYS TISSUE ALMOST INSTANTLY! AND NOW TO GET ON WITH THE REST OF MY PLAN!

GORSE MAKES A SERIES OF TELEPHONE CALLS...
HELLO, GWEN! HOW ABOUT COMING OVER FOR A SWIM IN MY NEW POOL? BE A LOT OF FUN!
NOW, YOU KNOW I'M NOT, ER, INTERESTED IN YOU! W-WHAT? A SCREEN TEST? WELL, MAYBE...
LATER...
CANDY? IMAGINE WHO JUST CALLED ME--THAT FAT FOOL OF A JIM GORSE! WANTS ME TO COME SWIMMING AT HIS POOL! BUT YOU KNOW HOW I HATE HIM! BUT HE PROMISED TO...
GET ME A SCREEN TEST! HE CAN DO IT, TOO! WHAT WOULD YOU DO, CANDY?
TAKE A CHANCE, HONEY! AFTER ALL, WHAT CAN HAPPEN? YOU CAN ALWAYS LEAVE IF HE GETS SMART! AND A TEST IS A TEST!
SO A LITTLE LATER...
HELLO, MR. GORSE! HERE I AM--BUT REMEMBER, NO MONKEY BUSINESS! IF YOU CAN GET ME A TEST I'LL BE VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU, BUT I DON'T LOVE YOU AND I WILL NEVER MARRY YOU!
NOW, GWEN, LET'S FORGET OUR LITTLE SQUABBLE! JUST TAKE A NICE SWIM! I WON'T BOTHER YOU AT ALL!
HMM--MAYBE JIM MEANS IT THIS TIME! I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM ACT SO NICE BEFORE! MAYBE HE IS SORRY HE TREATED ME THE WAY HE DID!
THANK YOU, JIM, FOR ASKING ME TO SWIM. BUT WHAT MAKES THE WATER LOOK SO FUNNY? SO RED?
THAT? OH, THAT'S JUST AN IDEA OF MINE TO MAKE IT MORE ATTRACTIVE! AT NIGHT, WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE ON, IT LOOKS REAL PRETTY! BUT GO AHEAD NOW AND HAVE YOUR SWIM!
WELL, HERE GOES! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAD A NICE REFRESHING SWIM!
ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN, BABY! I'LL (CHUCKLE) GUARANTEE YOU ONE THING -- IT WON'T LAST LONG!
A FEW SECONDS LATER SOMETHING FLOATS TO THE SURFACE OF THE BLOODY POOL! A GRINNING SKULL...
HAH-HAH! SHE DOESN'T LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL NOW! JUST BONES WHERE ALL THAT LOVELY SKIN USED TO BE! SHE CALLED ME A STUPID FAT FOOL ONCE--AND NOW LOOK AT HER!

GORSE HAS PLANNED HIS PHONE CALLS CAREFULLY! AS DARKNESS FALLS ANOTHER GUEST MAKES AN APPEARANCE...
WELL, GORSE, WHAT DO YOU WANT? WE AREN'T EXACTLY FRIENDS, YOU KNOW!
NOW, FRED! LET BYGONES BE BYGONES! I FORGIVE YOU FOR THAT TIME YOU CHEATED ME ON THE STOCK MARKET!
SO I WANT TO BE FRIENDS! WE'LL FORGET THE PAST! AND AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE WHY NOT TAKE A SWIM IN MY NEW POOL? IT'S SO HOT TONIGHT!
IT IS HOT, AT THAT! AND I COULD USE A DIP! BUT DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO BE YOUR FRIEND, GORSE!
YOU CHEATED ME, REMEMBER! NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND! IT'S JUST LIKE YOU TO TRY AND TWIST IT TO SUIT YOU! SO I'LL JUST HAVE MY SWIM AND SAY GOODBYE!
OKAY, FRED, OKAY! IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL, GO AHEAD AND ENJOY YOURSELF!
ALL RIGHT, FATSO! AGREED! I'LL USE YOUR CRUMMY SWIMMING POOL THIS ONCE! THAT'S THE ONLY THING I'LL EVER GET OUT OF YOU!
DON'T YOU WISH YOU COULD DIVE LIKE THIS, GORSE! THEN MAYBE SOME OF THE PRETTY GIRLS WOULD GIVE YOU A BREAK!
GO AHEAD, ROMEO! SHOW ME YOUR PRETTY MUSCLES! SHOW ME HOW GOOD YOU ARE!
AGAIN A GRISLY SKULL FLOATS TO THE SURFACE OF THE SINISTER POOL...
OH, HO-HO-HO! LOOK AT HIM NOW! HEE-HEE-HEE! JUST LOOK AT HIS BEAUTIFUL SMOOTH MUSCLES NOW! WONDER WHAT THE (CHUCKLE) GIRLS WOULD THINK OF HIM!

STILL LATER, WHEN AGAIN THE POOL HAS BEEN EMPTIED OF ITS GRUESOME CONTENTS...
WELL, JAMES, WHAT IS IT? WHAT DEVILRY ARE YOU UP TO NOW? I HAVEN'T BEEN YOUR WIFE FOR 20 YEARS FOR NOTHING! BUT REMEMBER I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!
JANET! WHAT A WAY TO TALK TO A HUSBAND WHO STILL LOVES YOU! I SIMPLY ASKED YOU OVER FOR A LITTLE CHAT!
AND FOR A LITTLE SWIM, PERHAPS! YOU HAVE SUCH A LOVELY FIGURE, YOU KNOW! I'VE ALWAYS (CHUCKLE) ADMIRED IT!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, JIM! STILL NASTY AND SARCASTIC! BUT I HAVEN'T CHANGED EITHER! SO IF YOU STILL WANT THAT DIVORCE THE ANSWER IS--NO!
SUDDENLY SHE REACHES INTO HER BAG, AND...
AS A MATTER OF FACT, JIM, I WENT TO THE DOCTOR TODAY! I'VE ONLY GOT THREE MONTHS TO LIVE! BUT BEFORE I DIE I'M GOING TO RID THE WORLD OF A SCOUNDREL...
HUH! NO, JANET, YOU FOOL! D-DON'T! I DIDN'T MEAN...
BUT I MEAN IT, JIM! IF EVER A MAN NEEDED KILLING YOU DO! AND I'LL NOT LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO GO TO THE GAS CHAMBER!
YAAAAA! THE POOL! FALLING INTO IT--- AIEEEEE!
AS THE WOMAN STEPS CLOSER TO PEER INTO THE SCARLET POOL...
OH, M-MY HEART! ANOTHER ATTACK! I--FALLING ...EVERYTHING GOING BLACK!
SLOWLY THEY RISE TO THE SURFACE, TWO SPECTRAL SWIMMERS, THEIR BONY ARMS THRESHING THE BLOOD RED WATER! AS THE MOON RISES IN THE EAST A LITTLE WIND SPRINGS UP AND KEENS A DIRGE THROUGH THE TREES BESIDE THE POOL, A SONG OF HATE AND MURDER AND A TERRIBLE RETRIBUTION...
THE SKULLS, MOVED BY THE GENTLE URGING OF THE WAVELETS, MOVE CLOSER TOGETHER UNTIL THEY COME TO REST IN EACH OTHERS ARMS! LOVERS IN DEATH AS ONCE THEY WERE IN LIFE!
The End

WEREWOLF Castle

YOU DON'T MIND A POOR OLD LADY JOINING YOU WHILE YOU READ THIS STORY, DO YOU, MY DEARS? OF COURSE NOT! AND IT'S — HEE-HEE-HEE— SUCH A NICE TRUESOME STORY, TOO...

THE OLD CASTLE HOVERED OVER THE AGELESS RHINE LIKE SOME GREAT EVIL BAT WAITING TO POUNCE ON ITS PREY! BUT THERE WAS WORSE THAN BATS IN THE CASTLE — THERE WAS DEATH! HORRIBLE DEATH OF THE MIND AND THE SOUL! SO ON A COLD AND STORMY NIGHT, TWO PEOPLE CAME TO THE MOULDERING OLD RUIN TO SPEND A FEW HOURS AND LIVED TO SEE THE **DAWN OF DOOM...**

THE PLACE WAS CALLED WEREWOLF CASTLE, FOR GOOD REASON, AS YOU'LL SOON SEE! IT STOOD NEAR THE LITTLE VILLAGE OF INNSBRUCKEN, BUT NONE OF THE VILLAGERS WOULD GO NEAR IT! ON THIS NIGHT THERE WAS A LIGHT IN ONE OF THE CASTLE WINDOWS...

AND NOT FAR AWAY WERE TWO YOUNG PEOPLE ON THEIR HONEYMOON...
LOOK, JOYCE, A SIGN AHEAD! NOW MAYBE WE CAN FIND OUT WHERE WE ARE!
I HOPE SO! I'M A TIRED AND HUNGRY GIRL RIGHT NOW!

WHAT? HAH-HAH— JUST LOOK AT THAT! WEREWOLF CASTLE! OF ALL THE NAMES! THIS WE'VE GOT TO SEE!
UGH — I DON'T LIKE THAT NAME! AND HOW DO WE KNOW THEY'LL TAKE US IN FOR THE NIGHT?
WEREWOLF CAS
ST. RAF

OF COURSE THEY WILL! THERE'S A LIGHT ON, AND THESE PEOPLE ARE ALL VERY HOSPITABLE!
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT I STILL DON'T LIKE THIS! WE SHOULD HAVE GONE THE OTHER WAY!

YOU AND YOUR CRAZY IDEAS, MARK! STRANGERS LIKE US FORCING OURSELVES ON PEOPLE JUST BECAUSE WE THINK THEY WON'T TURN US AWAY!
HO-HO! I'LL BET ANYTHING IT'S OWNED BY A POVERTY-STRICKEN BARON OR SOMETHING, WHO'S PROBABLY RUNNING IT AS AN INN!

WELL, HERE WE ARE! ALL OUT FOR WEREWOLF CASTLE, HONEY! SEE, SOMEONE IS OPENING THE DOOR ALREADY! I TOLD YOU THEY'D BE GLAD TO SEE PAYING GUESTS!
YES, SOMEONE IS AT THE DOOR! BUT THIS ATMOSPHERE IS SO CREEPY! UGH! WELL, MAYBE I'LL FEEL BETTER AFTER A NICE HOT MEAL!

AS THE ANCIENT DOOR CREAKS OPEN...
HELLO! CAN YOU PUT US UP FOR THE NIGHT?
COME IN, PLEASE! WELCOME TO WEREWOLF CASTLE!
FOLLOW ME! THE BARON AND BARONESS WILL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU! WE VERY SELDOM GET STRANGERS HERE!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
GOOD EVENING! I AM THE BARONESS GOTHA!
AND I AM BARON GOTHA! GLAD YOU STOPPED BY! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WEREWOLF CASTLE?
COME, MY DEAR, I KNOW YOU MUST BE TIRED! I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM!
GO AHEAD, JOYCE! I'LL STAY AND CHAT WITH THE BARON FOR A FEW MINUTES!
SO YOU FIND OUR CASTLE INTERESTING, MR. HANSON?
I CERTAINLY DO! WERE-WOLVES, OF ALL THINGS! I'VE HEARD SO MANY STORIES...
DON'T LAUGH, MR. HANSON! SOME OF THOSE STORIES ARE QUITE TRUE! AS A MATTER OF FACT, A WEREWOLF USED TO LIVE IN THIS VERY CASTLE!
HUH! YOU'RE KIDDING!
NO, I AM NOT KIDDING, AS YOU AMERICANS SAY! THE CASE IS LISTED HERE IN THE HISTORY OF THE GOTHA FAMILY! YOU SEE, THE WEREWOLF WAS ONE OF MY ANCESTORS! HE WAS FINALLY BURNED AT THE STAKE, AND THEY SAY HIS GHOST STILL HAUNTS THIS CASTLE! THIS WILL MAKE PLEASANT READING IN CASE YOU CAN'T SLEEP!
REGIN ALDOR WERE-WOLF STUDIES

MEANTIME, ON ANOTHER FLOOR OF THE OLD CASTLE...
THANK YOU, BARONESS! YOU'RE VERY KIND, YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND!
YOU'RE PERFECTLY WELCOME, MY DEAR! IN FACT, WE'RE SO PLEASED TO HAVE YOU! WE VERY SELDOM HAVE VISITORS IN THIS ISOLATED SPOT!
SLEEP WELL! AND IF YOU SHOULD HEAR STRANGE NOISES IN THE NIGHT, DON'T BE ALARMED! IT WILL ONLY—(CHUCKLE)—BE THE BATS FLYING AROUND IN THE OLD DUNGEON!
AS JOYCE HANSON PREPARES FOR BED, SHE HAS AN ODD SENSE OF UNEASINESS! THE CASTLE SEEMS TO BREATHE AROUND HER, TO MOVE AND CREAK IN THE NIGHT WIND...
B—BATS! DUNGEONS! UGH—NOW WHY DID SHE HAVE TO SAY A THING LIKE THAT? THIS PLACE IS BAD ENOUGH AS IT IS...
OWWWW—THE SHEETS ARE SO DANK AND CLAMMY! BUT I AM TIRED! SO—(YAWN)—AWFULLY TIRED! AFRAID I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO STAY AWAKE UNTIL MARK COMES UPSTAIRS! I—OWOOOOO—THE B-BED'S MOVING!
SUDDENLY THE BED SWINGS UPWARD, INTO AN OPENING IN THE WALL BEHIND IT, SMOTHERING THE SCREAMS OF THE TERRIFIED WOMAN...
EEEEEEEEE—
AND JOYCE FINDS HERSELF THROWN INTO A PLACE OF HORROR! IN A DIM AND GHASTLY LIGHT SHE SEES SKULLS LEERING AT HER...
OHHHHH—W—WHERE AM I? W—WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO TO ME? HELP—HELP! AAAAHHHHHH—SOMEONE HELP ME! MARK—MARK...

AT THAT MOMENT SOMETHING FLITS FROM A WINDOW HIGH ON THE CASTLE WALL! A WEIRD TRANSFORMATION HAS COME OVER THE BARONESS GOTHA...
AND NOW FOR THE BUSINESS OF THE NIGHT! EVERYTHING IS WORKING OUT JUST AS WE PLANNED IT!
WHAT LUCK THAT THOSE TWO FOOLS STOPPED HERE TONIGHT! NOW THE BARON AND I CAN BE FREE AT LAST! FREE TO DIE, LIKE OTHER PEOPLE! BUT BEFORE WE DO...
WE'LL HAVE ONE LAST FLING! BUT WHAT'S THIS— THE BARON IS STILL WITH THAT MAN, THE HUSBAND! WHAT CAN HE BE THINKING OF— THE GIRL IS FOR HIM! THE MAN IS FOR ME!
BUT THE BARON IS JUST PREPARING TO LEAVE HIS GUEST...
WILL YOU EXCUSE ME A MOMENT, HANSON? I— I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING OUT IN THE MAIN CORRIDOR! I'LL ONLY BE A MINUTE...
SURE, BARON! I'M GETTING SLEEPY ANYWAY! I THINK I'LL GO ALONG AND JOIN MY WIFE! GOOD NIGHT!
BUT BEFORE THE MAN CAN LEAVE THE STUDY, THE WIND BLOWS THE WINDOW OPEN WITH A CRASH, AND...
RIGHT, FOOL! AND NOW YOU KNOW THAT WEREWOLF CASTLE WAS NOT NAMED AS A JOKE! BUT MY HUSBAND IS THE WEREWOLF—AND HE'S AFTER YOUR WIFE NOW!
YIIIIII— B-BARONESS! BUT YOU— SO CHANGED! WHY, Y-YOU'RE A VAMPIRE!
AND YOU ARE— MINE! NOW...
SO BEHIND THE GRIM FACADE OF THE CASTLE THE SCREAMING BEGINS! BUT MARK HANSON IS POWERLESS AGAINST THE VAMPIRE...
AHA—MY TEETH SINK EASILY INTO YOUR THROAT, MY FRIEND! ARRRRRRRGGGGG—
OWWWW— OWWWW—

MEANTIME...
AND WHILE THE BARONESS IS ENTERTAINING HERSELF WITH THAT YOUNG FOOL, I'LL GET ON WITH MY OWN BUSINESS! THE GIRL IS NICELY TRAPPED AND WAITING FOR ME!

BARON GOTHA! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS OUTRAGE? I—(SOB)—DEMAND...
YOU DEMAND, EH? BUT I AM GIVING THE ORDERS NOW, MRS. HANSON! AND YOU ARE COMPLETELY IN MY POWER!

AND BEFORE THE EYES OF THE ASTONISHED AND TERRIFIED GIRL, THE BARON GOTHA TAKES ON THE LOATHSOME FORM OF A WEREWOLF...
NO USE, MY DEAR! ALL THOSE WHO VISIT WEREWOLF CASTLE MUST SUFFER THE SAME FATE!
N—NO! PLEASE! STAY AWAY FROM ME! DON'T—AHHHHHHHHHHH—

THE MOMENT YOU PEOPLE TOOK THE WRONG ROAD TONIGHT—AND IT WAS THE WRONG ROAD, AS YOU'LL ADMIT NOW—YOU WERE BOTH DOOMED! THIS HAD TO HAPPEN!
AHHHHH—HELP—HELP!
MARK—MARK, WHERE ARE YOU?

NO USE CALLING FOR YOUR HUSBAND! MY WIFE, THE BARONESS, IS TAKING GOOD CARE OF HIM, YOU KNOW! SHE IS A VAMPIRE! AS YOU WILL SOON BE! NOW...
EEEEEKKKKKK—

AND THE MOULDERING OLD CASTLE SEEMS TO GLOAT IN THE FAINT MOONLIGHT AS THE SCREAMS GROW LOUDER AND LOUDER, THE SOUNDS OF A MAN AND WOMAN IN ANGUISH! ONLY THE CASTLE KNOWS HOW MANY TIMES, DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES, IT HAS HEARD THE SAME SOUNDS OF DOOM...
YIIIIEEEEEEEEEEE—

FINALLY THE HORRIBLE SCREAMS DIE AWAY AND THERE IS ONLY BLACK SILENCE, BROKEN OCCASIONALLY BY THE FLUTTER OF BATS' WINGS! THE LONG DARK HOURS SLIDE SLOWLY INTO OBLIVION, AND THE SUN BREAKS THROUGH THE CLOUDS IN A CRIMSON DAWN TO FORM A BLOODY HALO IN THE EAST...

IN THE DUNGEON, JOYCE HANSON SWIMS UP OUT OF A DEEP SLUMBER! DAZED AND WONDERING, SHE STARES AROUND AT HER GRIM SURROUNDINGS WITHOUT REMEMBRANCE OF THE NIGHT'S TERRIBLE EVENTS...
OHH — HOW DID I GET IN THIS PLACE? OWWW — MY HEAD HURTS! AND MY THROAT — SO SORE!

WHILE MARK HANSON ALSO AWAKES IN THE STUDY, WITH ONLY A HAZY NOTION OF WHAT THE NIGHT HAS BROUGHT! BUT HE KNOWS ONE THING — THAT HE MUST FIND HIS WIFE AT ONCE...
I — I MUST HAVE SLEPT DOWN HERE ALL NIGHT! JOYCE! WHERE IS MY WIFE? I M — MUST FIND HER!

A MOMENT LATER...
MARK! DARLING! WHAT HAPPENED TO US? I — I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING! IT JUST SEEMS THAT I HAD A HORRIBLE DREAM!
I DON'T KNOW, EITHER! THE LAST THING I REMEMBER I WAS IN THE STUDY AND THE BARON WAS LEAVING! BUT WAIT — WHERE ARE THEY? THE BARON AND HIS WIFE?

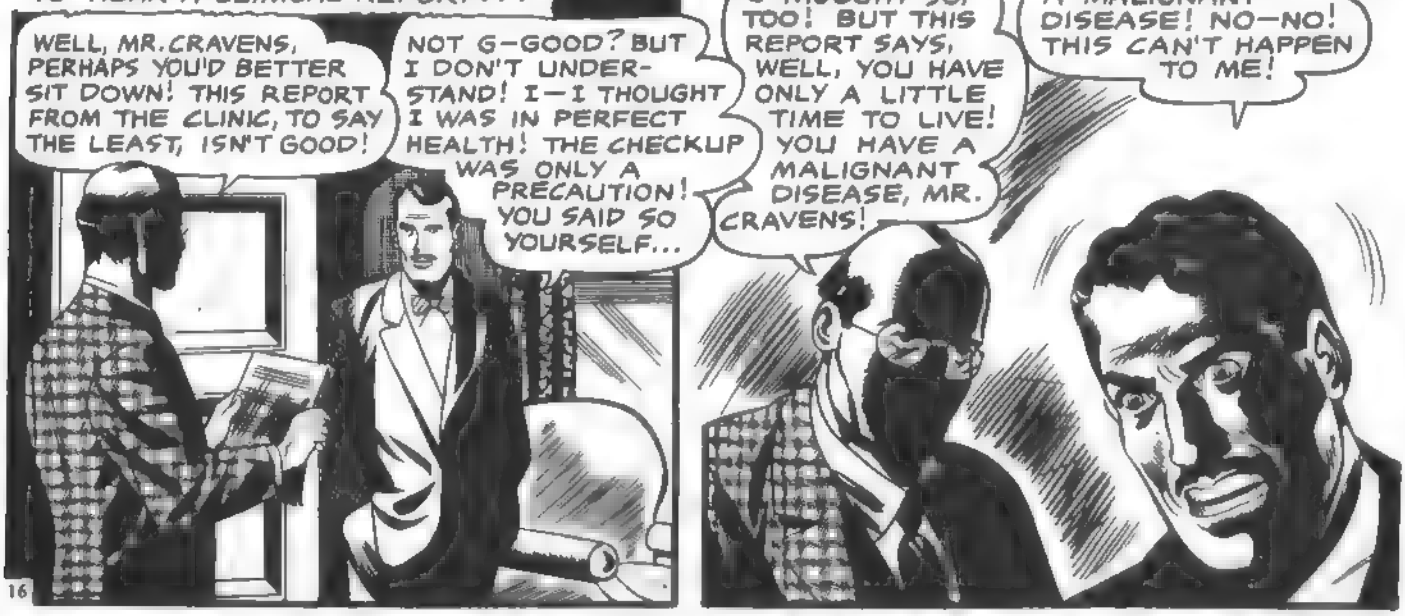
BEHIND THEM...
HEE-HEE-HEE! NO USE LOOKING FOR THE BARON AND BARONESS! THEY WON'T BE COMING BACK! EVER! YOU'RE THE NEW TENANTS OF WEREWOLF CASTLE!
US?
YES, YOU! YOU ARE NOW A WEREWOLF AND YOUR WIFE IS A VAMPIRE! AS THE GOTHAS WERE! AND YOU WILL REMAIN THAT WAY UNTIL SOMEONE ELSE STOPS HERE, AND YOU TREAT THEM AS YOU WERE TREATED! THAT IS THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN EVER BE RELEASED! YOU HAD BETTER — (CHUCKLE) — HOPE THAT IT IS SOON!

HEE-HEE! THAT'S THE STORY, MY DEARS! NOT PRETTY, IS IT? AND IF YOU DON'T — (CHUCKLE) — BELIEVE ME, THEN JUST GO AND SEE FOR YOURSELF! WEREWOLF CASTLE IS STILL WAITING! AND NOW I MUST GO, TOO, FOR THERE IS A CORPSE WAITING FOR THIS SHROUD!
THE END

HENRY CRAVENS WAS ABOUT TO DIE— AND HE HATED THE IDEA! HE COULDN'T FACE IT WITH THE PHILOSOPHICAL ATTITUDE THAT WE ALL HAVE TO GO SOMETIME—INSTEAD HE HAD A PSYCHOTIC TERROR OF THE SHROUD AND THE GRAVE! AND IN THE END HE FOUND THAT SOMEONE, AT HIS EXPENSE, HAD MADE A **FATAL MISTAKE**...

IF I SHOULD DIE...

HENRY CRAVENS VISITS HIS DOCTOR TO HEAR A CLINICAL REPORT...



ON HIS WAY HOME, HENRY CRAVENS SEES, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME, THE BEAUTY OF THE WORLD AROUND HIM...

THE PARK — SO BEAUTIFUL! AND THOSE CHILDREN ARE SO VITAL AND FULL OF LIFE!

AND WHEN HE REACHES HOME...

MY WORK! THE NOVEL I'LL NEVER FINISH! IT ALL SEEMS SO UNIMPORTANT NOW! AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A GOOD NOVEL, TOO!

THAT NIGHT, HENRY CRAVENS IS LOATH TO GO TO BED...

THE STREETS, THE PEOPLE, THE LIGHTS — ALL SO FULL OF LIFE! AND HERE I AM IN A LONELY ROOM, WAITING TO DIE! AND THAT REMINDS ME THAT I HAVE SOMETHING I MUST DO! MIGHT AS WELL GET IT OVER WITH...

SO HE MAKES OUT HIS LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT...

HMMM — NOW LET ME SEE! I HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TO LEAVE TO MY RELATIVES — AND NOT MANY RELATIVES! MY TYPEWRITER AND PERSONAL EFFECTS I'LL LEAVE TO BOBBY, MY NEPHEW! HE WANTS TO BE A WRITER! MY FEW SHARES OF STOCK CAN GO TO AUNT EFFIE...

FINALLY, WHEN HE CAN STALL NO LONGER, HE GOES TO BED...

I HATE THIS! I KNOW I WON'T SLEEP! BUT THE DOCTOR SAID I MUST TRY TO REMAIN CALM — THAT WAY I MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROLONG MY LIFE A LITTLE LONGER!

AS HE EVENTUALLY DROPS OFF INTO A TROUBLED SLEEP, HE BEGINS TO DREAM! AND IN HIS DREAM HE SEES HIMSELF — DYING...

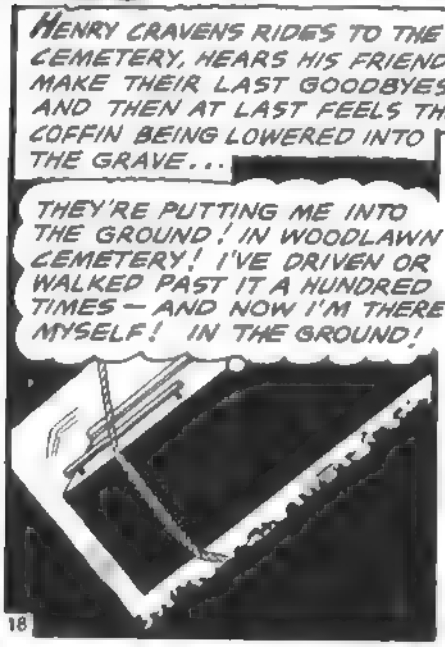
N-NO, DOCTOR! PLEASE! I'M NOT REALLY DEAD! PLEASE DON'T PUT THE SHEET OVER MY FACE! NOT YET — PLEASE DON'T — **PLEASE DON'T!**

BUT IN HIS DREAM, HENRY CRAVENS IS ALREADY DEAD...
POOR HENRY! TOUGH TO DIE IN YOUR PRIME LIKE THIS!
YES, HE WAS A GOOD MAN! A GOOD WRITER, TOO, BUT HE DIDN'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO REALLY WRITE ANYTHING GOOD!

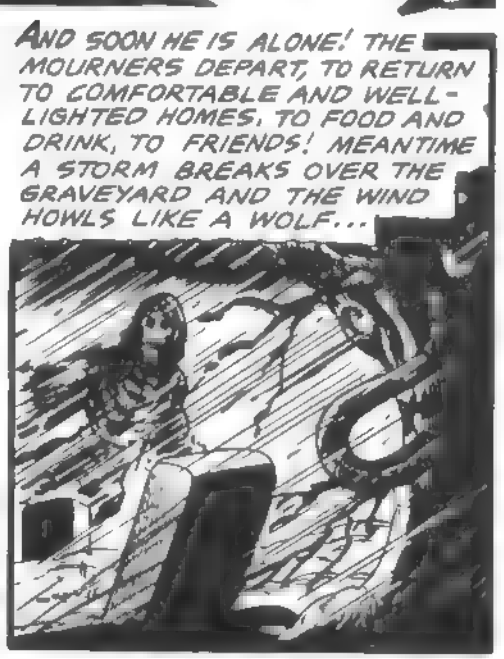
AND IN HIS DREAM HE IS PUT INTO A HEARSE AND TAKEN TO A FUNERAL PARLOR, DRIVING FOR THE LAST TIME THROUGH THE QUIETLY BEAUTIFUL STREETS...
SO ODD — I CAN TELL WHERE WE ARE NOW! WE'RE PASSING A LITTLE PARK— AND I WONDER IF THAT SAME BEAUTIFUL GIRL IS THERE, WAITING FOR HER BEAU AS SHE ALWAYS DOES?

AT THE FUNERAL PARLOR HE FEELS THE BLOOD BEING PUMPED FROM HIM, TO BE REPLACED BY EMBALMING FLUID...
ALL READY? WANT ME TO START PUMPING?
GOING TO P-PUT EMBALMING FLUID INTO ME NOW! ALL MY BLOOD, MY GOOD RED BLOOD, GONE FOREVER!

FINALLY HE IS PUT INTO A COFFIN, DRESSED AND MADE UP! HIS FACE ROUGED TO A SEMBLANCE OF LIFE, HIS HAIR COMBED, HIS BEARD NEATLY SHAVED OFF...
DID A GOOD JOB ON THAT ONE, JOE! LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING TO WAKE UP ANY MINUTE AND START TALKING!
YEAH — HE WAS IN GOOD SHAPE! BUT NOW MAYBE I'LL GET THAT RAISE, HUH?

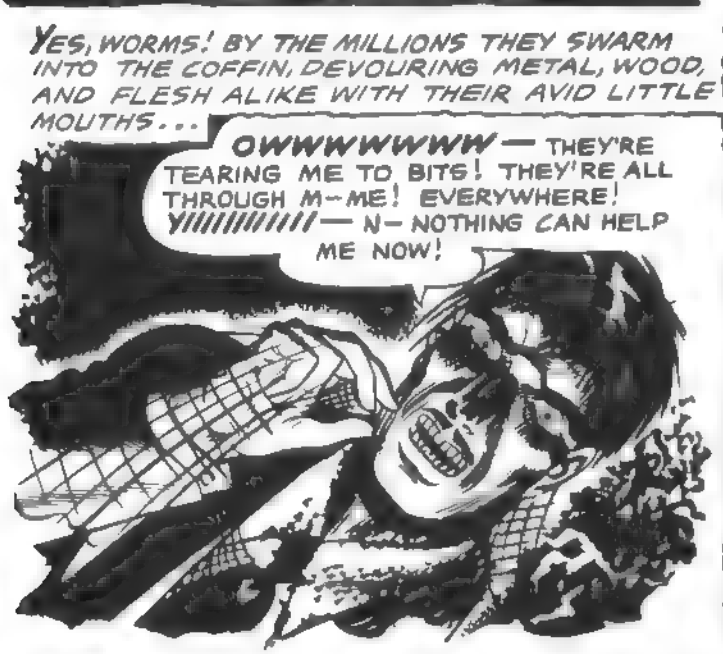

HENRY CRAVENS RIDES TO THE CEMETERY, HEARS HIS FRIENDS MAKE THEIR LAST GOODBYES, AND THEN AT LAST FEELS THE COFFIN BEING LOWERED INTO THE GRAVE...
THEY'RE PUTTING ME INTO THE GROUND! IN WOODLAWN CEMETERY! I'VE DRIVEN OR WALKED PAST IT A HUNDRED TIMES — AND NOW I'M THERE MYSELF! IN THE GROUND!

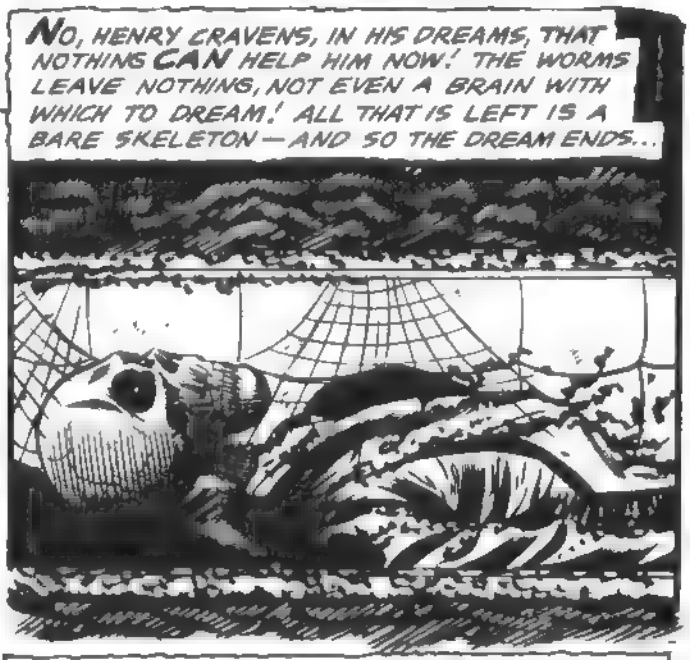
THE D-DIRT! FALLING ON THE COFFIN! CUTTING OFF ALL THE AIR, THE SUN-LIGHT! NOW THE SOUND IS GETTING FAINTER — THEY'RE SHOVELING IN MORE D-DIRT! SOON I'LL BE ALL ALONE!


AND SOON HE IS ALONE! THE MOURNERS DEPART, TO RETURN TO COMFORTABLE AND WELL-LIGHTED HOMES, TO FOOD AND DRINK, TO FRIENDS! MEANTIME A STORM BREAKS OVER THE GRAVEYARD AND THE WIND HOWLS LIKE A WOLF...

SO HENRY CRAVENS DREAMS ON! DREAMS THAT HE IS DEAD AND BURIED AND SO— LONELY! BUT NOT LONELY FOR LONG NOW, BECAUSE HE IS ABOUT TO HAVE VISITORS...
I HEAR SOMETHING! A STRANGE NOISE— SORT OF A GNAWING SOUND! B—BUT WHAT CAN IT B—BE?

THEN HE SEES THEM...
YOWWWWWW— WORMS COMING AFTER ME!


YES, WORMS! BY THE MILLIONS THEY SWARM INTO THE COFFIN, DEVOURING METAL, WOOD, AND FLESH ALIKE WITH THEIR AVID LITTLE MOUTHS...
OWWWWWWW— THEY'RE TEARING ME TO BITS! THEY'RE ALL THROUGH M—ME! EVERYWHERE! YIIIIIIIIIII— N—NOTHING CAN HELP ME NOW!


NO, HENRY CRAVENS, IN HIS DREAMS, THAT NOTHING CAN HELP HIM NOW! THE WORMS LEAVE NOTHING, NOT EVEN A BRAIN WITH WHICH TO DREAM! ALL THAT IS LEFT IS A BARE SKELETON—AND SO THE DREAM ENDS...

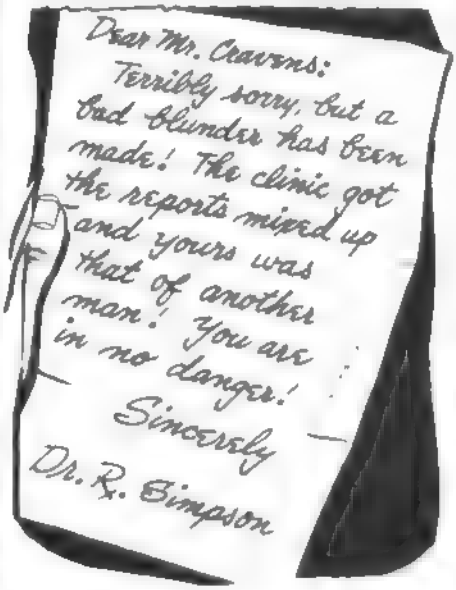
OHH— I—I'M STILL ALIVE! IT WAS ONLY A NIGHTMARE AFTER ALL! THANK GOODNESS! BUT IT WAS HORRIBLE—SO HORRIBLE! IF DEATH IS REALLY LIKE THAT, I DON'T SEE HOW I CAN FACE IT!

SUDDENLY IT HAPPENS! AS HE TRIES TO CLIMB OUT OF BED, HE FEELS A GREAT RACKING PAIN IN HIS HEART! HIS CHEST SEEMS TO EXPLODE...
OWWWWW— M—MY HEART! I—OH— FALLING—DYING!

AND NOW HENRY CRAVENS IS TRULY DEAD! LATER AS HIS GHOST DEPARTS ITS BODY...
WHAT KILLED HIM, DOCTOR?
I DON'T KNOW HIS HISTORY, OF COURSE! I WAS JUST CALLED IN! BUT IT IS VERY ODD!

I'D SWEAR THAT MAN WAS HEALTHY! HARD TO SAY WITHOUT AN AUTOPSY... BUT HE LOOKS LIKE A MAN THAT WAS FRIGHTENED TO DEATH!
HUH? SCARED TO DEATH! BY WHAT?

ON HIS WAY OUT, THE GHOST PICKS UP A LETTER THAT HAS JUST BEEN SENT BY SPECIAL MESSENGER...
FOR ME! MIGHT AS WELL READ IT— MY LAST EARTHLY LETTER!


THE GHOST GETS A SHOCK...
Dear Mr. Cravens:
Terribly sorry, but a bad blunder has been made! The clinic got the reports mixed up and yours was that of another man! You are in no danger!
Sincerely
Dr. R. Simpson

IN A VERY FEW MINUTES, IN THE OFFICE OF DOCTOR RALPH SIMPSON.
HELLO, DOCTOR! SO YOU MADE A MISTAKE! A MISTAKE THAT COST ME MY LIFE!
HMMM— THAT'S ODD! I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEONE SPEAK TO ME JUST THEN! AND THE ROOM— SO COLD ALL OF A SUDDEN!

YES, I FEEL IT! THERE IS SOMETHING HERE IN THE ROOM WITH ME! SOMETHING EVIL— SOMETHING THAT WANTS TO HARM ME! BUT I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!
YES, DOCTOR! YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR YOUR STUPIDITY—AND THAT OF THE CLINIC ALSO! I LOVED MY LIFE! SO...

AND IN THE CHILL NIGHT, THE SCREAMS BEGIN...
AHHHHHHHHHHH— HELP ME! SOMETHING'S GOT ME! TEARING MY THROAT OUT! HELP, SOMEONE! EEEEYIIIIIIII— YAAAAAAAAA—
The End

KILLER Lady

HE WAS HANDSOME— BUT **SHE** WAS THE DEVIL! OUT OF THE JUNGLE SHE CAME, A SMOULDERING CRUELTY IN HER EYES, AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE THAT HE FOUND THAT THE **VAIN DIE YOUNG...**

BUT AT THE PIER...
WE MIGHT AS WELL BLOW, BOYS! OONA DOESN'T LIKE US!
NOPE! SHE HATES THE PRESS!

WELL, IF IT AIN'T CURLY LOCKS HIMSELF! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
WHAT YOU BUMS CAN'T DO! I'M GONNA INTERVIEW OONA! I HEAR SHE LIKES HANDSOME MEN!

LATER...
SO LET'S GO MACKAY! THEY ALL FALL FOR THIS HAIR!

AND...
YES? WHOM DO YOU WISH TO SEE?
I HOPE IT'S YOU, BABY! I'M MACKAY FROM THE PRESS AND I WANT TO SEE PRINCESS OONA!

SO, ARE YOU PRINCESS OONA?
YES! WON'T YOU COME IN?

SUCH LOVELY HAIR YOU HAVE! I LIKE THAT IN MEN!
I KNEW IT! THE LOCKS GET THEM EVERY TIME!

THAT NIGHT...
THIS IS VERY NICE, MR. MACKAY! I'M GLAD YOU ASKED ME!
SO AM I, SUGAR! BUT HOW ABOUT CALLING ME TIM?

AND THE NEXT DAY..
OH—TIM! YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T! OR SHOULD YOU!
YOU KNOW I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU, OONA!

AND THE NEXT...
YOUR BEAUTIFUL HAIR! I CAN'T KEEP MY HANDS OFF IT!
ALL RIGHT BY ME, HONEY! I KINDA LIKE IT MYSELF!

AND FINALLY...
I'VE DECIDED, DARLING! YOU MUST COME BACK TO MY COUNTRY WITH ME! BE MY KING!
SOUNDS SWELL, BABY! I MIGHT MAKE A GOOD KING!

BROTHER, HAVE I GOT THE PRINCESS HOOKED! GOOD DEAL, TOO! NO MORE RUNNING A CRUMMY NEWS BEAT!

SO WE'RE ON OUR WAY AT LAST, DARLING! I'M SO HAPPY!
YEAH! I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THIS LITTLE JUNGLE OF YOURS!

AT LAST THEY REACH OONA'S SAVAGE COUNTRY...
WHEW—I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD THIS KIND OF JUNGLE!
IT GETS MUCH WORSE, DARLING!

I GUESS I BETTER ADMIT IT—I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR JUNGLES!
DON'T YOU WORRY, DARLING! I'LL NEVER LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOU!

SUDDENLY...
H—HEY! A CROCODILE AFTER ME!

THERE, DARLING, YOU'RE SAFE NOW! I TOLD YOU I WOULD GUARD YOU!
T—THANKS!

NOW ARE YOU CONVINCED THAT YOU'RE SAFE—THAT YOU'RE ALL MINE?
YOU MUST REALLY LOVE ME, BABY!

AT OONA'S COMMAND A LITTER IS PREPARED FOR TIM...
THERE, DARLING, YOU MUST RIDE AND SAVE YOUR STRENGTH!

THAT NIGHT TIM IS AWAKENED SUDDENLY...
YIIII— A VAMPIRE BAT!
EEEEEEEEE
TIM! THAT BAT IS IN YOUR HAIR! STOP HIM!
I—C-CAN'T! HELP ME!
THEN I'LL DO IT! THERE, YOU FILTHY THING! I'LL KILL YOU!
OONA! ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU LOOK SO FIERCE — THAT B—BLOODY KNIFE!
ME! WHY, DARLING, I ONLY DID IT FOR YOU!
AND NOW COME AND LET ME STROKE YOUR BEAUTIFUL HAIR! HOW I LOVE IT!
YOU KNOW SOMETIMES I THINK YOU—(HAH-HAH)—LOVE MY HAIR MORE THAN ME!

AT LONG LAST...
THERE IT IS, DARLING! OUR NEW HOME! MY ROYAL VILLAGE!
HMM— I'VE SEEN BETTER JOINTS! BUT IF I'M GOING TO BE A KING...

WELCOME HOME, ROYAL OONA! IT HAS BEEN LONG! WHAT IS YOUR FIRST COMMAND?

AND THIS ONE, OONA, IS THE BEST ONE YET! YOU HAVE DONE WELL!
HUH?
COME, LET'S GO NOW!

WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT CRACK? I'M THE BEST WHAT YET?
UH, NOTHING AT ALL, DARLING! YOU MISUNDERSTOOD!

LATER...
PRETTY FANCY DUDS A KING WEARS AROUND HERE! I GUESS I DID ALL RIGHT COMING TO THIS JUNGLE!

AND THEN THE BUBBLE BURST...
W—WHAT DO YOU GUYS WANT? YOU'RE SOLDIERS!
YOU ARE TO COME WITH US TO THE PRINCESS— AT ONCE!

NO! LEAVE ME ALONE! YOU CAN'T DO THIS! OONA LOVES ME! SHE'LL KILL YOU!
THESE ARE HER ORDERS, FOOL!

OONA! MAKE THEM LEAVE ME ALONE! YOU KNOW YOU PROMISED...

...N-NOT TO LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO ME — OONA — W-WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME THAT WAY — SO F-FUNNY!

OF COURSE I CHERISHED YOU, FOOL! I DID EVERYTHING FOR THAT LOVELY HEAD OF YOURS!
H-HEAD!

MY TRIBE ARE HEADSMEN!
E E E E E E E E E E E E E

MINE — MINE AT LAST! AFTER ALL THE STRUGGLE! THE MOST BEAUTIFUL I'VE EVER SEEN!
THE END

The GHOUL AND THE GUEST

WHEN A PERSON IS POISONED WITH BITTERNESS AGAINST THEIR OWN LOT IN LIFE, USUALLY THEY FIND DEATH TWICE AS UNDESIRABLE!

ON ZEB CLARK'S FARM, DAY FOLLOWED DAY IN A CYCLE OF DRUDGERY... THE FUTURE HELD NO SHINING PROMISE, THE PAST WAS LOST IN ITS OWN BLEAK SHADOW... AND THE PRESENT? LET US LOOK...

I'M HUNGRY, LADY! CAN YOU SPARE A BIT OF GRUB? I'M A SICK MAN, CAN'T WORK FER MONEY LIKE OTHER FOLKS DO...

NOT TOO SICK TO BEG, ARE YOU?

I WORK FOR WHAT I GIT! IF YOU WANT TO EAT, PROVE IT... THAT WOOD OVER THERE NEEDS CHOPPING...

BUT I'M SO WEAK...

GOING BACK TO HER CHORES, MRS. CLARK HEARD THE RISE AND FALL OF THE AXE... THE STRANGER WORKED SO SLOW, HE'D NEVER CHOP ANYTHING TO SPEAK OF...
LAZY NO-GOOD! FEED HIM, WILL I? NOT UNTIL HE'S EARNED IT! LOOK AT HIM STALL AROUND...
UH! MUST HAVE HURT HIMSELF... NO... NO, I GUESS HE JUST FAINTED!
GIT UP! IF YOU CAN'T WORK, BE OFF WITH YOU! NO PLACE FOR SICK MEN 'ROUND HERE...
I'M NOT SICK, LADY... I'M DYING... BUT I'VE GOT TO FILL THE WOOD BIN...
DON'T TALK FOOLISHNESS! GIT UP!
GOT TO FILL THE WOOD BIN SO I CAN EAT... PERHAPS YOU WILL JOIN ME THEN, EH? I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU!
HE'S DEAD! HOW WILL I EXPLAIN A MAN'S DEAD BODY HERE TO ZEB? HE'LL NEVER BELIEVE ME...
GOT TO GIT RID OF HIM THIS WAY UNTIL I CAN THINK... ZEB'LL BE HOME ANY MINUTE!

MRS. CLARK'S FACE LOOKED COLORLESS WHEN ZEB SHOWED UP... HE NOTICED HOW HER HANDS WERE SHAKING, TOO...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, WOMAN? SKITTERY AS A NEW COLT TONIGHT!
I'M TIRED, THAT'S ALL, ZEB...
A LITTLE TIRED MYSELF! GOT TO TURN OVER THE FIELDS TOMORROW...
THEN YOU'D BETTER GIT SOME SLEEP...
WHAT'S THAT? S-SOMEONE CHOPPING WOOD?
ZEB! ZEB!
HE DOESN'T HEAR IT...
CHOP CHOP CHOP
THE TRAMP! BUT IT COULDN'T BE! I BURIED HIM IN THE YARD!
AIEEE-EEEE!!
AIEE
NOW, NOW, HONEY, YOU HAD A NIGHTMARE! CALM YOURSELF... EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT!
OH, ZEB... ZEB...

THE NEXT DAY WAS TORTUROUSLY LONG IN COMING, BUT FINALLY THE SUN SHONE AND ZEB GOT READY TO LEAVE FOR THE FIELDS...
SAY, YOU HAVEN'T AWAKENED YET, HONEY! I SAID GOODBYE TO YOU TWICE AND YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME!
G-GOOD-BYE, ZEB...

JUST MY NERVES AFTER ALL! THE GRAVE IS EXACTLY AS I LEFT IT... BUT—BUT THOSE FOOTSTEPS! WHO... COULD THEY BE ZEB'S?

...LEADING TO THE WOOD BIN... OHHH... IT'S HALF FULL! BUT I KNOW WE DIDN'T HAVE THAT MUCH WOOD STACKED AWAY...

LATER
CHOPPING AGAIN! HE'S BACK! NO! I'M DREAMING! ZEB DOESN'T HEAR HIM... IT'S ONLY MY IMAGINATION!
CHOP-CHOP-CHOP-

C-COULD THAT BE HIM? THAT THING? FILLING THE WOOD BIN...

...AND THE BIN IS ALMOST FULL! HE SAID HE'D COME BACK FOR ME WHEN IT WAS FULL! NO... NO!

...THE FOLLOWING DAY, MRS. CLARK CAST FRANTIC GLANCES AT THE WOOD BIN... JUST A FEW MORE CORDS WOULD FILL IT TO THE BRIM... BY DUSK SHE WAS COLD WITH TERROR... WOULD HER HUSBAND NEVER GET HOME? THEN SUDDENLY...
H—HE USUALLY STARTS AT MIDNIGHT... BUT TODAY...
CHOP-CHOP-
FULL! HE'S PUT IN THE LAST PIECE OF WOOD!
SLA
...AND NOW, DEAR LADY, WE MAY DINE TOGETHER AS I PROMISED! YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THE TRAMP, HAVE YOU? SO WEAK FROM HUNGER...
PLEASE! DON'T COME NEAR ME! I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING... ANYTHING!
THAT SCREAM! MY WIFE! WHAT'S WRONG?
AIEEEEEEE!
D-DEAD! NO... IMPOSSIBLE! I'LL CALL THE DOC...
SHE'S DEAD, ALL RIGHT, ZEB! SOMETHING FRIGHTENED THE LIFE OUT OF HER! WHO WAS HERE? THE TABLE IS SET FOR TWO... THE FOOD'S BEEN EATEN...
I DON'T KNOW, DOC! I DON'T KNOW...

CORPSES... COAST TO COAST!

"HELLO! I'M GOING TO TELL YOU ABOUT THIS DREAM OF MINE! IT **IS** ONLY A DREAM, OF COURSE, BUT I HAVE IT A LOT, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, THE SAME DREAM, AND MAYBE YOU'LL FIND IT INTERESTING, TOO! AND DREAMS **DO** COME TRUE SOMETIMES, DON'T THEY? ONLY PROMISE ME YOU WON'T LAUGH, OR THINK I'M CRAZY! BECAUSE I'M NOT—HEH-HEH—CRAZY, YOU SEE! NOT A BIT! NOW ABOUT MY DREAM..."

THE DREAM ALWAYS STARTS THE SAME WAY! I'M WALKING DOWN A DARK STREET AND I SEE THE PAPER BOY...

HERE, BOY! GIVE ME A PAPER!

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! BIG STRIKE—TERRIBLE...

AND I READ THE SCREAMING HEADLINES...

"GRAVE DIGGERS STRIKE OVER COUNTRY—THOUSANDS OF CORPSES UNBURIED!"

HMMM—WHAT'S SO TERRIBLE ABOUT THAT? I THINK IT'S FINE!

I'M AN UNDERTAKER! I SUPPOSE I SHOULD WORRY ABOUT THINGS LIKE GRAVE-DIGGERS STRIKING— BUT IN THE DREAM I DON'T WORRY! I'M GLAD...
AND I HURRY TO MY PLACE OF BUSINESS, WHERE I FIND ALL MY FOOL ASSISTANTS WRINGING THEIR HANDS...
OH, SIR, I'M GLAD YOU'VE COME! HAVE YOU HEARD— THE TERRIBLE NEWS?
YES—YES! I KNOW! WHAT'S THE SITUATION HERE?
AWFUL! THE B-BODIES ARE PILING UP LIKE CORD-WOOD! ALL FUNERALS ARE CANCELLED! CEMETERIES ARE SENDING ALL BODIES BACK TO US! WHAT SHALL WE DO?
HMMM— DON'T DO ANYTHING, YOU FAT-HEAD! JUST PILE THE BODIES UP AND WAIT FOR ORDERS!
AND THEN—ALWAYS AT THE SAME TIME IN THE DREAM—THE PHONE RINGS AND I HEAR THE CHIEF SPEAKING...
THIS IS BIG Z! THE TIME HAS COME! REPORT TO HEADQUARTERS AT ONCE!
YES, SIR!
IN THE DREAM I DRIVE AND DRIVE, UNTIL FINALLY I APPROACH THE SECRET HIDEOUT IN THICK WOODS...
YES—AT LAST! WE OF THE U.W.Z. WILL RULE THE WORLD! THIS IS OUR GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!
U.W.Z.
AND I AM SHOWN INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE CHIEF, WHO ADDRESSES ME AS Z-ONE! I'M PROUD OF THAT TITLE...
AH, YOU CAME AT ONCE, Z-ONE! GOOD! WE HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO! WE STRIKE IMMEDIATELY!
YES, BIG Z. WE'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS!

AS YOU KNOW, Z-ONE, THE GRAVE-DIGGERS STRIKE WAS NO ACCIDENT! WE'VE WORKED FOR MONTHS ON IT! AND BY INFILTERING THEIR UNION, WE'VE SUCCEEDED!

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!

OKAY! YOU'RE MY RIGHT HAND MAN! YOU WILL PUT SCHEDULE "A" INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY! EVERY DETAIL HAS BEEN PERFECTED FOR MONTHS! GOOD LUCK!

AND IN MY DREAM, EVERYTHING GOES SMOOTHLY! WITH MY GOON SQUADS, I LEAD A RAID ON THE CITY MORGUE...

HURRY, YOU MEN! THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING! WE'VE GOT OTHER PLACES TO GO!

AT LAST! THIS IS IT!

SURE, BOSS!

AND THEN WE HIT ALL THE UNDERTAKING ESTABLISHMENTS IN TOWN...

SURE WAS A BREAK FOR US, BOSS, THE GRAVE-DIGGERS STRIKING THIS WAY! ONLY WAY WE'D EVER GET SO MANY BODIES AT ONCE!

FOOL! WE PLANNED IT THIS WAY!

AND LATER, WE TAKE OVER SOME OF THE RAILROADS! THE POLICE AND GOVERNMENT STILL DON'T SUSPECT JUST WHAT IS GOING ON...

OKAY, TAKE IT AWAY! YOU KNOW WHERE TO PICK UP YOUR LOAD! NOW BALL THE JACK!

GOT YA, BOSS! WE'LL DO A GOOD JOB, DON'T WORRY!

SEE YA AT THE PROCESSING CENTER, BOSS!

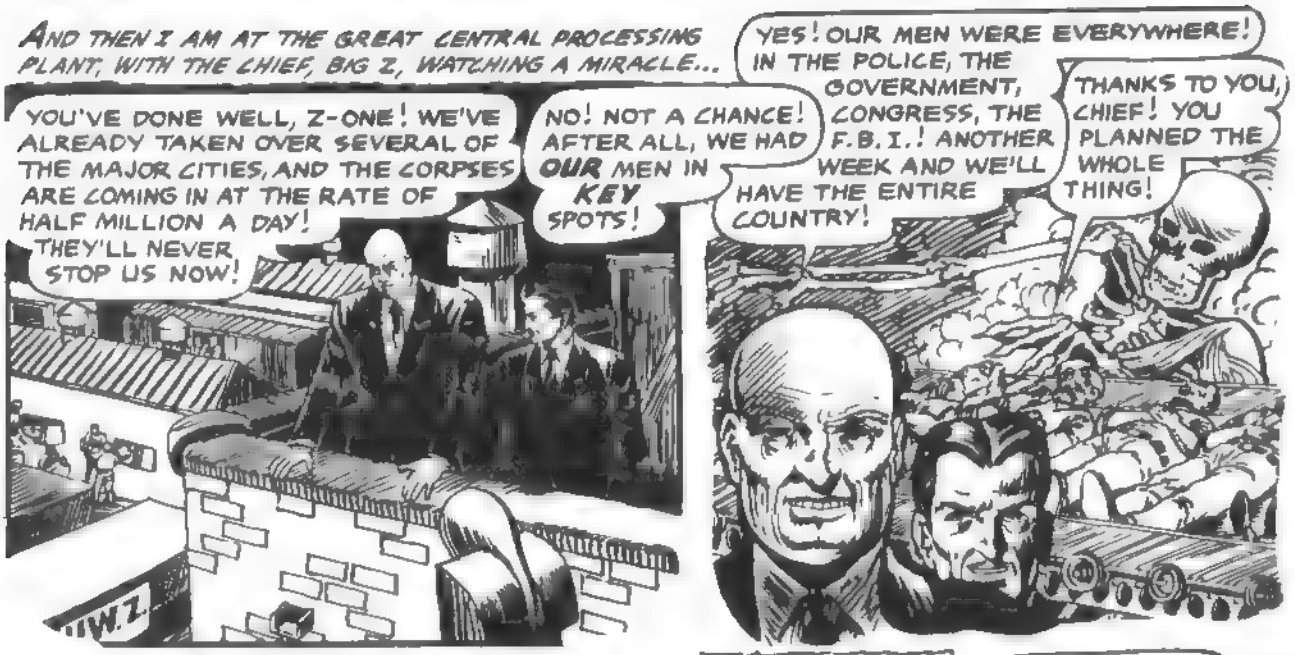
WE TAKE OVER SOME TRUCKING OUTFITS, TOO...

AS DISPATCHER I HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE! YOU KNOW YOUR QUOTA—A THOUSAND CORPSES DELIVERED AT THE PROCESSING CENTER EVERY HOUR!

SURE—SURE! THE WAY THE BODIES ARE COMING IN NOW, I WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE!

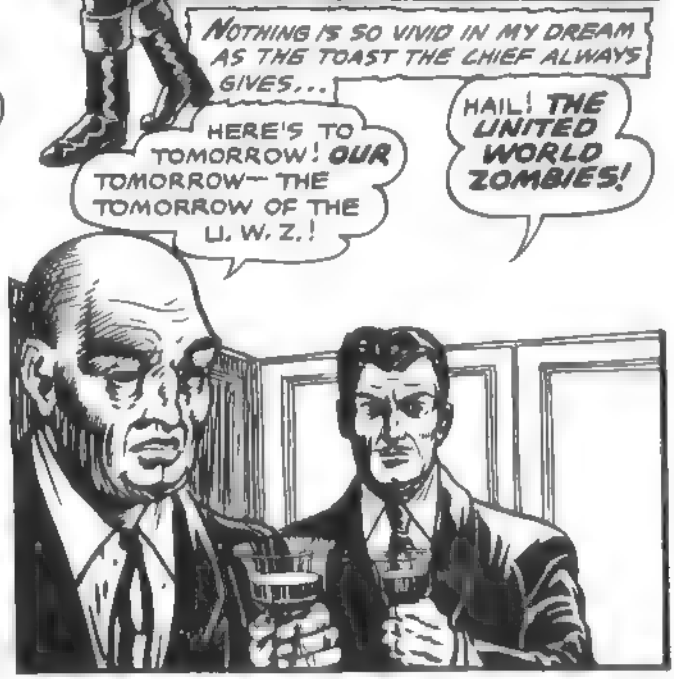
AND IN MY DARK DREAM, ACROSS THE DREARY COUNTRYSIDE, I CAN SEE TRAINS AND TRUCKS LOADED WITH DEAD BODIES, THE RAW MATERIAL OF ONE OF THE GREATEST REVOLUTIONS EVER PLANNED...

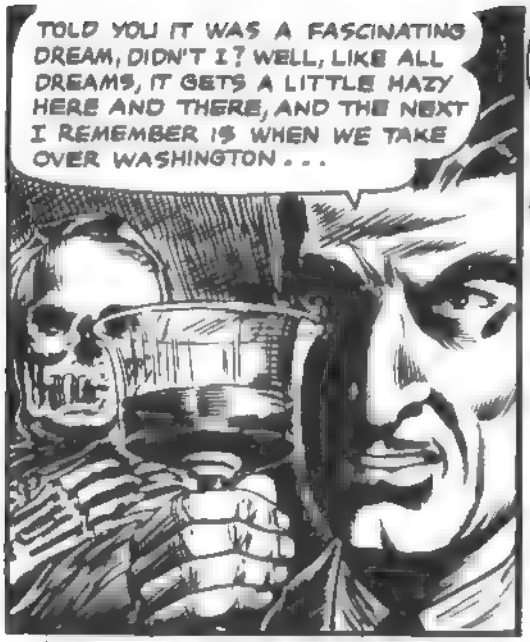
WHOOO— WHOOO—WOOO—


AND THEN I AM AT THE GREAT CENTRAL PROCESSING PLANT, WITH THE CHIEF, BIG Z, WATCHING A MIRACLE...
YOU'VE DONE WELL, Z-ONE! WE'VE ALREADY TAKEN OVER SEVERAL OF THE MAJOR CITIES, AND THE CORPSES ARE COMING IN AT THE RATE OF HALF MILLION A DAY! THEY'LL NEVER STOP US NOW!
NO! NOT A CHANCE! AFTER ALL, WE HAD OUR MEN IN KEY SPOTS!
YES! OUR MEN WERE EVERYWHERE! IN THE POLICE, THE GOVERNMENT, CONGRESS, THE F.B.I.! ANOTHER WEEK AND WE'LL HAVE THE ENTIRE COUNTRY!
THANKS TO YOU, CHIEF! YOU PLANNED THE WHOLE THING!
U.W.Z.

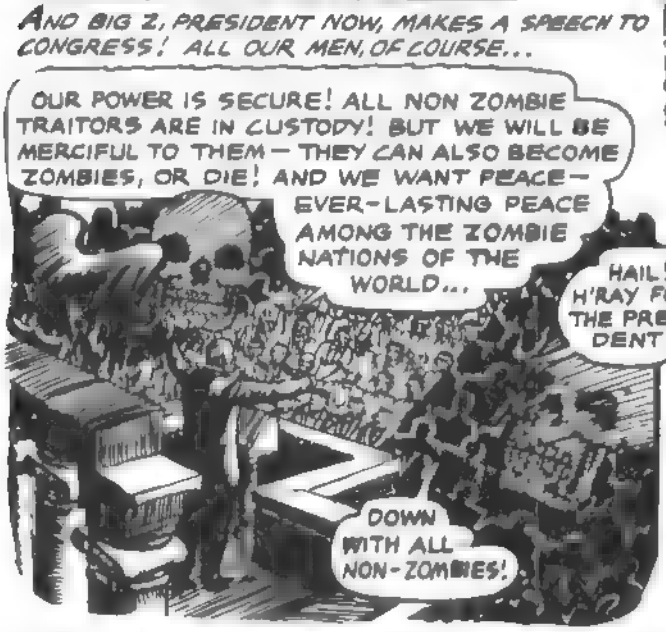
WE INSPECT THE HUGE PLANT, BUILT SECRETLY, AND AT A TREMENDOUS COST, AND SO ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR PLAN...
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND EXACTLY HOW THIS WORKS, CHIEF! OH, I KNOW THAT YOU REACTIVATE THEM, THEN SEND THEM THROUGH THE INDOCTRINATION TANK, BUT WHERE ARE THEY GOING NOW? WHAT'S DOWN THERE?
FINAL OUTFITTING ROOM! THEY'RE SORTED AND ASSIGNED TO JOBS! COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!
AND IN MY DREAM, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, I ALWAYS MARVEL AT THE MIRACLE...
YOU SEE, Z-ONE! THREE MINUTES AFTER A CORPSE IS UNLOADED AT THE FRONT GATE— IT COMES OUT HERE! READY TO GO TO WORK FOR US!
HEH-HEH! NOT MUCH LIKE THE OLD DAYS, EH? THOSE OLD FOOLS WITH THEIR VOODOO AND CHARMS— TOOK THEM DAYS TO PRODUCE ONE ZOMBIE!

THEY MAKE PERFECT SOLDIERS! NO FEAR— NO MINDS! YES, WE'VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THE OLD DAYS, Z-ONE!
AND WE'LL GO A LOT FARTHER, CHIEF! TOMORROW THE WORLD!


NOTHING IS SO VIVID IN MY DREAM AS THE TOAST THE CHIEF ALWAYS GIVES...
HERE'S TO TOMORROW! OUR TOMORROW— THE TOMORROW OF THE U.W.Z.!
HAIL! THE UNITED WORLD ZOMBIES!



AND BIG Z, PRESIDENT NOW, MAKES A SPEECH TO CONGRESS! ALL OUR MEN, OF COURSE...



ONCE OUR REVOLUTION HAD BEGUN, THERE WAS NO STOPPING IT! IN MY DREAM I ALWAYS SEE THE GLOBE SHAPED TOWERS OF THE KREMLIN, WHERE THE ZOMBIES HAD ALSO SEIZED POWER.

AND IN FRANCE WE HAD ALSO COME TO POWER...

IN ENGLAND ALSO...

WE SET UP CAMPS FOR THE NON-ZOMBIES! REHABILITATION CAMPS, WE CALLED THEM...

GET IN, YOU SWINE! HURRY!

WHY DON'T YOU LET US KILL THESE NON-ZOMBIE DOGS?

THE NON-ZOMBIES WERE A PROBLEM! AS HIGH CHIEF OF ZOMBIE SECURITY, IT WAS MY DUTY TO HANDLE THE IMPORTANT CASES...

IF YOU WERE ONLY TO CO-OPERATE WITH US, PROFESSOR NOBLE! WE CAN'T MAKE YOU *REAL* ZOMBIES WITHOUT KILLING YOU, AND WE DON'T WANT TO DO THAT! BUT IF YOU WOULD ONLY CONSENT TO BECOMING *SYNTHETIC* ZOMBIES, TO LET US *DEHUMANIZE* YOU..

NEVER! YOU MUST KILL US! WE WANT TO DIE! WE PREFER IT TO LIVING IN A WORLD OF ZOMBIES!

BUT THAT, OF COURSE, WAS WHERE WE HELD THE WHIP HAND! AS I EXPLAINED TO THE PROFESSOR...

YOU MUST OBEY! IF YOU DON'T, WE *WILL* KILL YOU, AND *THEN* REACTIVATE YOU AS A *ZOMBIE!* ALL OF YOU, WHO HATE US SO MUCH, WILL BE *ZOMBIES* YOURSELVES!

N-NO! DON'T! YOU- YOU MUST LEAVE US OUR SOULS!

SO IN THE END WE PREVAILED OVER THE REBELS! THEY WERE DEHUMANIZED AND PUT TO WORK AT JOBS THAT THE REGULAR ZOMBIES COULD NOT VERY WELL DO...

THEY'RE WORKING OUT WELL, SIR! JUST LIKE HUMAN ADDING MACHINES! THEY WORK 24 HOURS A DAY, AND NEVER NEED ANY REST!

YES! THE DEHUMANIZING PROCESS DIDN'T INJURE THEIR BRAINS! BUT THEIR SOULS, HAH-HAH— THEY'VE LOST THEM! IF THEY—(CHUCKLE)—EVER HAD ANY!

"SO, IN MY DREAM, THE ZOMBIES ARE SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD! ONLY IT DOESN'T LAST LONG! DON'T ASK ME WHY, BUT IT SEEMS THAT ZOMBIES CAN BE JUST AS STUPID AS SO-CALLED PEOPLE! ONE DAY I AM SUMMONED TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OR, AS I STILL CALL HIM, BIG Z..."

ALERT YOUR ZOMBIE SECURITY POLICE, Z-ONE! IT'S WAR! RIGHT NOW OUR PLANES ARE ON THEIR WAY TO BOMB MOSCOW! THERE'S AN UPRISING THERE!

B-BOMBING—BUT BIG Z, THIS IS MADNESS! WAR WILL TEAR DOWN EVERYTHING WE'VE BUILT UP!

BUT BIG Z WAS RIGHT, AS USUAL! WE FOUND THAT THEY WERE PLANNING TO BOMB US, SO WE GOT THE JUMP...
ONLY THEY RETALIATED — ON NEW YORK...
YOU CAN'T KILL ZOMBIES, OF COURSE, BECAUSE THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD! BUT YOU CAN BURN AND MAIM THEM BEYOND USEFULNESS AND REPAIR...
OUR CASUALTIES ARE TERRIBLE, BIG Z! ZOMBIE TISSUE DOESN'T STAND UP WELL UNDER BLAST AND RADIATION! WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF ZOMBIE POWER!
I KNOW! BUT I'VE GOT A PLAN! IF WE CAN GET TOGETHER WITH THE RUSSO-ZOMBIES AND TEAM UP ON THE INDO-ZOMBIES..
BUT BIG Z NEVER PUT HIS PLAN INTO EFFECT! THE NEXT DAY...
TERRIBLE NEWS, SIR! THE PRESIDENT, BIG Z HIMSELF, HAS BEEN VAPORIZED! A DIRECT HIT! YOU'RE OUR NEW LEADER! YOU'RE BIG Z NOW!
THE FUNNY PART OF IT IS, NONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW ME, SUSPECT WHAT I REALLY AM... A DREAMER, YES.... BUT ALSO A ZOMBIE! HEH-HEH-HEH!
AND ONE THING I AM PROUD OF — I BROUGHT PEACE! I WORKED HARD AND I SUCCEEDED, AT LAST, IN MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR ZOMBIOCRACY...
YES! ALL BROTHERS NOW! LET THIS BE MY MONUMENT!
AND THAT'S MY—(YAWN)—DREAM! INTERESTING, HUH? I TOLD YOU IT WOULD BE! AND DON'T THINK I'VE GOT DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR, OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT! I KNOW IT'S ONLY A DREAM, AND THAT IT CAN'T COME TRUE — STILL...
I SIGN FOR MY COUNTRY! NOW WE HAVE PEACE! NO MORE FIGHT! ALL IS BIG BROTHERHOOD OF ZOMBIES!
The End

The Dancing Ghost

THOSE WHO SAW HER SWORE SHE LOOKED ALIVE... BUT PERHAPS THAT WAS BECAUSE DEATH CAME TO HER SO SUDDENLY SHE NEVER COULD STOP HER DANCE OF WILD ABANDON...

COME TO THINK OF IT, WE MIGHT HAVE FUN EXPLORING IT!
THAT'S MY GIRL! HMM... AM I GLAD I MARRIED YOU!
BUT IT DOES LOOK THREATENING...
ENTER, MY DEAR WIFE! AND WE WILL SHARE OUR ADVENTURE TOGETHER!
G-GOLLY, IT'S CHILLY IN HERE!
SO IT IS! BUT I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT IN A JIFFY!
NOW! AS SOON AS THIS FIRE CATCHES, WE'LL BE COZY AS CAN BE! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS? SOME THOUGHTFUL GHOST LEFT US A BOTTLE OF SHERRY! WHAT LUCK!
TOM, LOOK AT THAT BEAUTIFUL PORTRAIT! DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE COULD BE THE DANCING GIRL THE VILLAGERS SAY HAUNTS THIS PLACE?
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED...

SHE'S LOVELY, ISN'T SHE?
UMM... BUT HER EYES LOOK SO SORROWFUL!
THIS WINE IS SO POTENT... MAKES ME FEEL VERY DROWSY... YOU, TOO?
OH, TOM... I CAN'T STAY AWAKE...
NEITHER CAN I... LET'S NAP A BIT...
AND AS THE YOUNG COUPLE SLUMBER, TIME SLIDES BACK...
HOW I WISH I COULD FIND A GIRL AS BEAUTIFUL AS MY PAINTING! SILLY CHAP THAT I AM... I'M INFATUATED WITH A PORTRAIT...
SAY, HAVE YOU NOTICED THE DANCING GIRL HERE? SHE BEARS A REMARKABLE RESEMBLANCE TO THE PAINTING JONATHAN DID!
WHY, YOU'RE RIGHT!
SAY, THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!
WOULD YOU DO A FAVOR FOR US, MISS? YOU'D BE WELL PAID...
WHY NOT? I CAN USE THE MONEY...

...AND JONATHAN'S FRIENDS ARRANGED THEIR LITTLE SURPRISE FOR HIM IN FULL DETAIL...
WAKE UP, MAN!
AM I DREAMING? THIS CAN'T BE! CARMINA... ARE YOU REAL?
BUT I AM, MY DARLING! COME TO ME...
AT LAST I'VE FOUND YOU! I'VE WAITED SO LONG... I'LL NEVER LET YOU GO... NEVER...
...BUT AS TIME ROLLED ON...
YOU'RE MORE BEAUTIFUL EACH DAY, CARMINA...
WILL YOU DO ME THE HONOR OF BECOMING MY WIFE?

I CAN'T, JONATHAN... I — I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU... I'M BETROTHED TO ANOTHER...

IN DESPERATION, JONATHAN CLUNG TO THE ONE FAVOR CARMINA USUALLY GRANTED...
BUT YOU WILL DANCE FOR ME AGAIN? AT LEAST THAT...
ALL RIGHT. TONIGHT... BUT FOR THE LAST TIME...

FRANTIC WITH A DIABOLICAL JEALOUSY, JONATHAN PREPARED THE ROSE THAT CARMINA WOULD HOLD IN HER LIPS WHILE SHE DANCED...
CYANIDE ON HER LOVELY MOUTH.. IT'S HORRIBLE!

AND CARMINA, MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER, DANCED FOR THE VERY LAST TIME...
FOR YOU, JONATHAN!

FORGIVE ME, MY LOVE. BUT I COULD NEVER SHARE YOU WITH ANOTHER... I HAD TO KILL YOU!

AND NOW TO PREPARE A RESTING PLACE FOR YOUR BEAUTY...

THIS SILKEN BIER WILL HOLD YOU... NOT A CRUDE WOODEN BOX...
BUT, IT'S NO USE... LIFE MEANS NOTHING TO ME WITHOUT YOU... I, TOO, MUST DIE!

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF JONATHAN'S DISAPPEARANCE! MIGHTY QUEER, EH? FOLKS FEEL MIGHTY UNEASY PASSING HIS PLACE NOW...
SO I HEARD. SAY, I WONDER WHERE THAT DANCING GIRL IS WORKING THESE DAYS?

BUT SUDDENLY TIME CAUGHT UP WITH THE PRESENT, AND...
TOM, DARLING WAKE UP!
OHHH...

SAY! I HAD THE MOST PECULIAR DREAM... ALL ABOUT THAT PORTRAIT!

THE PORTRAIT! SO DID I! DON'T TELL ME YOU DREAMED THAT TWO BODIES WERE BEHIND THE...
...THE FIRE-PLACE? YES, I DID! WHAT COULD IT MEAN, DEAR?

HE MOVED SOME-THING AROUND HERE AND IT STARTED TO SWING OPEN...

LOOK! IT'S STARTING TO OPEN!

OH, TOM... I'M GETTING FRIGHTENED! MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T..
RIGHT, TOM... IT REALLY WASN'T A PLEASANT SIGHT... BUT AFTER ALL, THE TWO LOVERS THAT COULDN'T SHARE LIFE TOGETHER, AT LEAST SHARED A TOMB!

T-THEY'RE IN THERE! THE TWO OF THEM! B-BUT DON'T LOOK... IT'S HORRIBLE!

...LOOK CLOSELY... THEY'RE SMILING, AREN'T THEY... OR ARE THEY?
THE END

MOST PEOPLE **LEARN** TO OVERCOME THEIR HANDICAPS, **LAWRENCE DAWSON**, BUT NOT YOU! **THESE** PEOPLE BECOME STRONGER, BETTER CITIZENS FOR THEIR EFFORTS... BUT **NOT YOU**. YOU'VE BEEN PLAGUED SINCE EARLY CHILDHOOD WITH BRITTLE BONES AND HAVE REFUSED, EVER SINCE, TO BE ANYTHING BUT **ERRATIC** AND **DESPONDENT**. TO **YOU**, PLACING **ANY** VALUE OF LIFE IS...

STRETCHING THINGS

YOU CURSE, EVEN THOUGH THE PHONE AWAKENS YOU FROM A TROUBLED SLEEP. IT'S YOUR DOCTOR, **JAMES BOYLE**.

YOUR APPOINTMENT TIME COMES, BUT YOU'RE STILL TOO CYNICAL TO BE IMPRESSED.

TIME PASSES AND YOUR BONES HEAL! BUT YOUR DISPOSITION SEEMS TO BE INBRED...
X!!@#! THAT MR. BUTLER! WHY DOES HE INSIST ON BORROWING THIS... OOPS!

YOU SHUDDER IN HORROR AS YOU FEEL THE TYPEWRITER SQUASHING YOUR FOOT...

BUT THERE IS NO PAIN! YOU GASP AS YOU SEE THE MACHINE ACTUALLY BOUNCE!

YOU REACH TO PICK IT UP AND.. YOUR ARMS STRETCH!
MY FLESH AND BONES... THEY'RE LIKE RUBBER! ALL... ALL THE THINGS I'LL BE ABLE TO DO... AND GET AWAY WITH! I'LL BECOME RICH! FAMOUS!

THEN, A REALIZATION! THE DOCTOR... HE STILL KNOWS THE FORMULA! HE MIGHT GIVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE! THEN WHERE WOULD HE BE?
I... I'LL KILL HIM! I CAN'T LET HIM STOP ME! I MUST LET THE WORLD PAY ME THE FORTUNE IT OWES ME!

YOU CALL DR. BOYLE FOR AN APPOINTMENT!
THAT'S RIGHT! I JUST WANTED TO BE SURE YOU'RE IN! I'LL BE THERE IN HALF AN HOUR! I WANT TO SHOW YOU... SOMETHING!

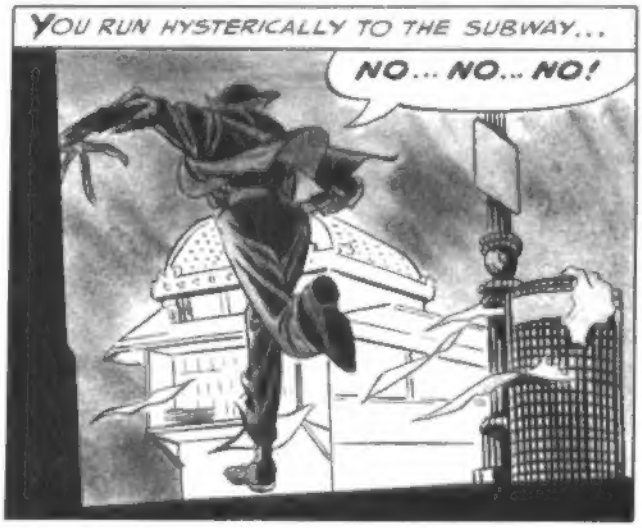
YOU ENTER HIS OFFICE AND ATTACK WITHOUT WARNING! YOU WRAP YOUR FINGERS AROUND AND AROUND HIS NECK AND THEN... THEN YOU SLOWLY SQUEEZE!
DON'T LOOK SO SHOCKED, DOCTOR! IT ISN'T THAT I DON'T LIKE YOU...

YOU HURRIEDLY LEAVE, SECONDS BEFORE ANOTHER PATIENT ARRIVES! THE MURDER IS DISCOVERED!
HEY YOU! COME BACK! POLICE! MURDER!

YOU REACH UP AND TWIST YOUR FACE INTO AN UNRECOGNIZABLE CONTORTION!
PUFF... PUFF! WHAT A STROKE OF GENIUS! NO WITNESSES COULD POSSIBLY IDENTIFY ME NOW!

YOU GLIDE INTO A DESERTED SIDE STREET... AT LAST SAFE FROM PRYING EYES...

YOU RELEASE YOUR GRIP... AND ARE HORRIFIED TO SEE...
MY FACE... IT'S STUCK! IT'LL STRETCH, BUT WON'T SNAP BACK...

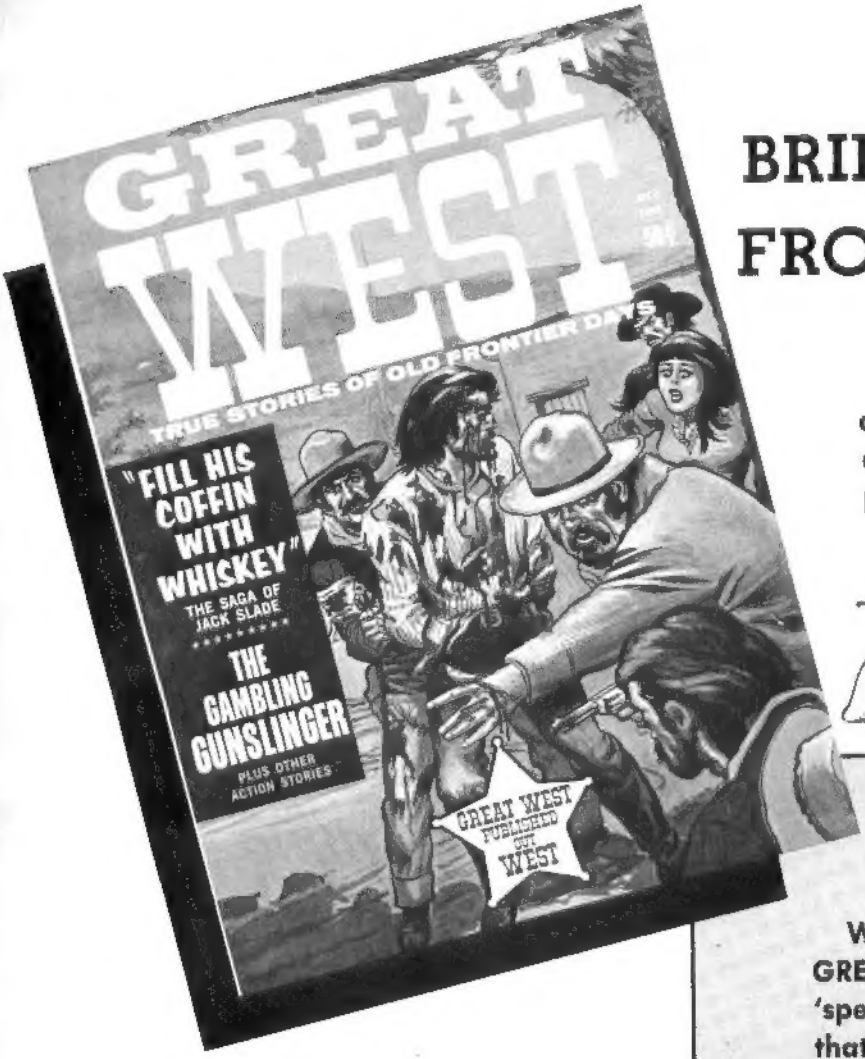

YOU RUN HYSTERICALLY TO THE SUBWAY...
NO... NO... NO!

... AND YOU STUMBLE...

... TWISTING... CRASHING... FALLING DOWN THE CEMENT STEPS!

YES, LAWRENCE DAWSON, YOU KILLED THE MAN WHO GOT YOU INTO THIS CONDITION, AND NOW YOU'VE MURDERED THE MAN WHO OFFERED YOU A SOLUTION! BUT... IN YOUR HASTE... YOU DIDN'T LET HIM LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO TELL YOU THE FLUID MEASUREMENTS FOR THE SYRINGE! MEANWHILE, THE POLICE DISCOVER THAT YOU WERE DR. BOYLE'S LAST VISITOR... HE HAD RECORDED YOUR APPOINTMENT!

(Continued on page 52)



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YOU REALIZE YOU CAN'T GET AWAY! BUT YOU **LAUGH**...

HA HA HA... HA HA!

YOUR VOICE SOUNDS **STRANGELY DISTANT** AS YOU BARK OUT YOUR DEFIANCE!

COME AND GET ME! YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME ALIVE...

YOU HEAR THE SHUFFLING OF FEET AND SENSE THE DRAMA ABOUT TO UNFOLD!

A BLAST OF BULLETS TEAR THE LOCK OPEN...

...AND THEN YOU WATCH THE POLICE BURST INTO THE ROOM, READY, IF NECESSARY, TO SHOOT YOU INTO RIBBONS!

THEY LOOK... AND DON'T SEE YOU! THEN... THEY GLANCE **DOWN** AT YOUR THIN, SHIVERING POOL OF A **SHAPELESS BODY!** BESIDE YOU IS AN EMPTY BOTTLE THAT ONCE HELD A PROMISE OF LIFE THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO SOFTEN YOUR FLESH AND BONES... NOT **MELT** THEM! BUT THEY DON'T NOTICE THE FAINT SMILE ON YOUR FADING FACE, AS YOU KNOW YOU'VE CHEATED THEM... AND AS YOU KNOW THIS IS... THE END!

The End